

## A NEW GALL MIDGE ON RHODODENDRON

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Specimens of a gall midge were received under date of August 18, 1938, from Doctor Clyde C. Hamilton of the N. J. Agricultural Experiment Station accompanied by the statement that they were reared from larvæ commonly infesting the young tips of *Rhododendron* in a nursery at Huntington Station, L. I. It was also stated that such injury had been brought to Doctor Hamilton's attention for the previous four or five years though he had not been able to obtain adults previously.

The earliest signs of infestation occur in small leaves two inches in length or less, the margins being inrolled in somewhat swollen pale greenish-yellow masses folded over the midrib. As the infestation ages, the more seriously affected portions of the leaves are marked with a brownish spottings which may extend and unite, and in the case of some of the partly developed leaves, result in a nearly complete browning of the leaf. Leaves not so seriously affected are partly expanded with indistinct pale greenish bulges over much of the surface or even irregular browned areas suggestive of a leaf spot. The pale whitish maggots, about a twentieth of an inch long, are found only in the younger tightly rolled leaves. This description of midge injury is based on material collected by the author at White Plains, N. Y., August 24th. Trouble of this character had come to our attention in earlier years though invariably it was after the affected foliage had been deserted by the maggots. Credit for rearing the insect is due to Doctor Hamilton. The species is evidently somewhat generally distributed in an area within fifty miles of New York City.

Injury by this species is limited to the new growth and according to observations by Doctor Hamilton it may appear in late May or early June and then on the second growth occurring in August. The gall midge appears to be new and is therefore described below.

***Giardomyia rhododendri* new species**

MALE.—Length 1.25 mm. Antennæ one-half longer than the body, thickly haired, light brown, the fifth segment with the basal enlargement globose, the distal enlargement with a length one-half greater than its diameter; the stems with a length two and one-half and three and one-half times their diameters respectively. Mesonotum pale brownish-yellow, scutellum and postscutellum yellowish, abdomen pale yellowish-brown. Wings hyaline, halteres pale yellowish, coxæ and base of femora pale straw, distal portion of femora, the tibiæ and tarsi a variable straw color, the simple claws strongly angulate. Genitalia; basal and distal clasp segments normal, the dorsal plate broadly and triangularly emarginate, the ventral plate lightly and roundly emarginate, the lobes slender and tapering.

FEMALE.—Length 1.25 mm. Antennæ about as long as the body, light brown, fourteen segments, the fifth cylindrical with a length two and one-half times its diameter, the stem with a length twice its diameter; the terminal segment narrowly oval and with a length two and one-half times its diameter. Palpi; first segment quadrate, second with a length three times its width, the third as long as the second and the fourth one-half longer than the third. Color nearly as in the male. Ovipositor short, the terminal lobes narrowly oval.

Type deposited in the U. S. National Museum.

This species runs in our Key, N. Y. State Museum Bulletin 231-232, page 118, near to *G. menthæ* Felt, the ventral plate characters serving to distinguish between the two.